

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1. A balance (1) comprising a weighing compartment  
2   (4) that borders on a stationary part (8, 9) of the balance  
3   and is otherwise enclosed by at least one side wall panel  
4   (5, 6), a front wall panel (7), and a top cover panel (12);  
5   wherein at least one of said panels is slidable by means of  
6   a guiding device (17, 20) to open and close the weighing  
7   compartment (4); and further comprising a handle (13)  
8   serving at least one of the purposes of lifting the balance  
9   (1) off a support surface and carrying the balance (1).

1           2. The balance (1) of claim 1, wherein the handle  
2   (13) is attached to the stationary part (8, 9) of the  
3   balance (1).

1           3. The balance (1) of claim 1, wherein the handle  
2   (13) is arranged on top of the balance (1).

1           4. The balance (1) of claim 3, wherein the handle  
2   (13) is arranged near the top cover panel (12).

1           5. The balance (1) of claim 1, wherein the handle  
2     (13) is designed and is arranged on the balance (1) in such  
3     a way, that the balance (1) can be lifted with one hand.

1           6. The balance (1) of claim 1, wherein the guiding  
2     device (120) of the top cover panel (12) is at least  
3     partially integrated in the handle (13).

1           7. The balance (1) of claim 6, wherein the handle  
2     (13) is configured as a rail for a guide element (14) of  
3     the guiding device (120) of the top cover panel (12).

1           8. The balance (1) of claim 7, wherein the guide  
2     element (14) comprises a vertical body (78) holding a  
3     vertical gear shaft (66) with an upper gear (73a) and a  
4     lower gear (74a) and the guiding device comprises a pair of  
5     gear racks (73, 74) meshing with the gears (73a, 74a).

1           9. The balance (1) of claim 7, wherein the guide  
2     element (14) is laterally guided in the guiding device  
3     (120) by a gliding constraint that prevents jamming of the  
4     guide element (14).

1           10. The balance (1) of claim 7, wherein the guide  
2 element (14) is laterally guided in the guiding device  
3 (120) by a rolling constraint that comprises guide rollers  
4 (75, 76) and provides jamming of the guide element (14)

1           11. The balance (1) of claim 1, further comprising  
2 a holder element (15) for the top cover panel (12), wherein  
3 the holder element (15) is integrated in the guiding  
4 device, and wherein the holder element has a form-locking  
5 closure device that holds and releases the top cover panel  
6 (12) through application of a manual force to at least one  
7 of the top cover panel (12) and the holder element (15).

1           12. The balance (1) of claim 1, further comprising  
2 a clutch lever (16) arranged on the handle (13), whereby  
3 the top cover panel (12) can be coupled to and uncoupled  
4 from a motorized drive mechanism that serves to move the at  
5 least one slidable wall (5, 6, 12).